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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /071 W
----------000582 232252Z /75
R 231515Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7319
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0505

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, CY, EG,
SUBJECT: LARNACA REPERCUSSIONS

1. THE GREEK CYPRIOT "ESTABLISHMENT" IS MORE AGITATED OVER THE LARNACA INCIDENT AND EGYPTIOAN REACTION THAN WE HAVE SEEN IT SINCE THE TURKISH INVASION IN 1974. THE PERVADING FEELING IS THAT THE SITUATION WAS GROSSLY MISHANDLED BY GOC FROM START TO FINISH. KYPRIANOU IS BEING BLAMED FOR THE ERRORS AND CRITICIZED ESPECIALLY FOR HAVING ABDICATED LEADERSHIP TO DR. LYSSARIDES. HIS OWN CLOSEST ASSOCIATES ARE AT ODDS WITH HIM. TWO MINISTERS TO WHO WE HAVE SOPKEN ARE TALKING SERIOUSLY OF RESIGNING. WE HAVE HEARD TALK OF IMPEACHING THE PRESIDENT , WHICH IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION BUT IS INDICATIVE. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE IS THAT KYPRIANOU LOST SIGHT OF WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HIS PRIORITY CONCERN IN THIS AFFAIR: MAINTENANCE OF GREEK CYPRIOT'S IMPORTANT FRIENDSHIP WITH EGYPT, A LEADER IN BOTH THE ARAB AND NONALIGNED WORLDS.

2. JOINED WITH THE FOREGOING THEMES IS A PROFOUND
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ANXIETY. WHILE THEY HOLD SADAT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LARGEST MISTAKE, CYPRIOTS ARE AFRAID OF HIS ANGER. THEY FEAR THAT HIS ONE-TWO-PQUNCH REACTION (REMOVAL OF AMBASSADORS AND SENIOR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, POINTED WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF KYPRIANOU AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS) MAY SIGNAL A SHIFT TO SUPPORT OF TURKISH POSITIONS NOT EXCLUDING RECOGNITION OF THE TFSC. THE

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THOUGHT THAT SADAT MIGHT CLOSE THE SUEZ CANAL TO
CYPRIOT FLAG VESSELS, SOMEHOW BLOCK REMITTANCES BY
CYPRIOTS WORKING IN THE ARAB STATES, OR PROMOTE ACTION TO
RESTRICT CYPRUS EXPORTS TO ARAB WORLD, MAKE THEM DESPERATE.

3. THESE ATTITUDES TRANSLATE DIPLOMATICALLY INTO AN
EFFORT TO PLAY FOR TIME, MAKE ACCOMODATING GESTURES,
SEEK OUTSIDE HELP (GREECE, US AND OTHER) AND HOPE THE
PROBLEM WILL SOMEHOW EASE WITHOUT FURTHER REPRISAL FROM
SADAT.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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